

## **Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 8-2-20**

### **What is My Promised Land?**

#### **1/3 — Looking Back**

Start with prayer and/or worship (reading a Psalm, singing a song, giving thanks, etc.). Re-cast the vision (see example video [here](#)), review obedience goals from the previous week, and ask how everybody is doing. Check-in question options:

- Up/In/Out — How are you doing in your three primary relational spheres? (Up: *God*. In: *fellow believers and family*. Out: *unbelievers*)
- Highs/Lows: What was your “high” and your “low” from the past week?

#### **2/3 — Looking to Jesus in the Present**

Explore the Scripture passage together: Proverbs 13:12

- As the facilitator, first summarize the passage in your own words.
- Invite someone else to read the passage out loud.
- Invite a third person to “re-tell” the passage in their own words.
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from this passage about who God is and what He does?*”
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from this passage about who we are and what we do?*”
- Alternative Question: “*why is hope so important?*”

#### **3/3 — Looking Forward**

Ask Jesus how he wants you to respond (corporately and individually) to what you have heard and learned. You can also practice the following exercise:

- Sit quietly together in Jesus’ presence and reflect on what your current “future story” consists of (you may want to use a journal to write things down). What do you find yourself spontaneously hoping for throughout your days lately? Do this without editing your thoughts and just pay attention to what you most naturally find yourself wishing for. You are not looking for the “right” answers, just paying attention to what is true in your experience at present. After doing this for a time, shift gears and reflect on what you’d like your future story to be. What kind of hope do you want your thoughts to be filled with as you live your days? Take some time to reflect on the differences between your current future story and the the future story you would like to have, and ask Jesus what He wants to do with that gap. You may want to finish with a time of sharing and praying with one another.